

NETHERLANDS PHILATELY



JOURNAL of the American Society for Netherlands Philately

Volume 4/2

We read...

MARTE, MARTE, HOW SAD

Two graphic artists, Dick Dooijes, using the title above in Repro en Druk, and Theo Verbeij in Graficus, both outstanding journals on printing techniques, have indulged in bad words about the design of the "basketball" stamp by their sister in the arts, Marte Røling.

We reprint both heartfelt commentaries in toto from the September Maandblad, after which we will give Marte Røling's comment on her own design.

First Mr. Dooijes:

My twelve-year-old grandson collects stamps. He is very serious about it and often he has long telephone conversations with grandma about questions which their hobby engenders in him. And of course, about new issues such as, for instance, the new set devoted to sports, announced a long time ago. How the boy anticipated that, a stamp about basketball .. I don't think he was the only one .. Was! .. Many times he overwhelmed grandma with the question whether she would remember immediately to buy that stamp for him (he lives somewhere in the "country," far away from a post office). Now grandma has bought that basketball stamp, and she realizes that she will disappoint Manuel with it. That is not her fault, but that of the designer and the PTT.

The boy of course expected to find something on that stamp about fast players, about a ball flashing upward. That would have been a simplification, a symbol, that would have fitted the requirements of such a very small effort in graphics, but such things don't bother boys. He anticipated that his collection would be enhanced by a basketball picture.

But the designer, Marte Røling, a very able draughtswoman, who decidedly could have fulfilled such desires, apparently didn't think for a moment of children like my grandson. She has obviously not thought at all about that sport and its participants, whether small or large. She has decided that a few lines of text on a white piece of paper would suffice. Now, in a Chinese calligraphy, for instance, one can express movement, even speed at times, but unfortunately, we are no Chinese. Hence, at least according to the designer, instead some dull, contoured, sans-serif capital letters had to be used - that is very "modern" - and the dynamics she has very ably suggested by putting these lines catty-corner at the bottom - that is even more "modern." Besides, it is very practical, because now you can use horizontally as well as vertically on a piece of printed matter. Very subtle, and PTT thought it good and beautiful.



I remember that long ago stamps had appeared with catty-cornered lines of text consisting of fat, sans-serif letters, but that is long ago. To be exact, in 1931, designed by Piet Zwart and Kiljan; they didn't bother to have contours around their letters .. but what striking designs they were, full of content, compared to this stamp of 1978. ...

P.S. Finally I realize the meaning behind all that white in the stamp: that is to give individual creativity a chance to express itself - the user can draw his own vision of basketball in all that white. Thus, indeed, it has become a very extraordinary stamp.

Now Mr. Verbeij:

The illustration above is an example of what one calls a postage stamp in the Netherlands. Other countries can try to emulate that! Aunt Pos (colloquial expression for the post office in the Netherlands) and Marte Røling must be very good .. sorry, must like each other very much .. I am so impressed by this idea that I believe that this line of design should be continued.

Immediately I started to design. It took several weeks, but the result is phenomenal, even if I say so myself:



The printing colors of the values 40, 45, 55 and 75 cent are, respectively, red, white, blue and orange. My fee for this set is f 2175.00, which I will expect to be deposited in my account No. 467437!

Now we let Marte Røling give her vision:

How a design for a stamp or other "piece of art" of mine is created I cannot tell you exactly. The idea for the half-empty, red-white-blue stamp was there all of a sudden.

I have researched the possibilities to show basketball on a stamp. I concluded that all the facts necessary to show that it concerns basketball (men and women playing together + one ball and one basket) would have produced something too pictorial. The fact that basketball is a Dutch invention coincided with my desire to design the stamp in red, white and blue.

To be critical is easy. On the other hand, stamps are a mass article which should speak to the entire population. That the basketball stamp "spoke," we may just as well forget. Your editor has asked Mrs. Røling to give her vision of good stamp design in the Netherlands, which we hope to publish in March. If she answers the letter.

ASNP Netherlands Philately



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December 1978

FROM THE EDITOR

YOUR editor is in the enviable position that he has a problem; namely, a problem that concerns too much material to fill one issue of your journal. Material that had to be left out because of lack of space was an article on the 1892 provisional stamp of Surinam, locally printed. We had also intended running an excerpt from a British book, the part where the author judges the Dutch stamp designs from the beginning. ASNP News that had to be left out was the financial statement (in the January newsletter) plus the fact that previous volumes of the journal can be ordered from the Membership Secretary (part xerox), the first volume, and the editor, all other volumes, for \$6.00 per volume.

Our line-up of authors is impressive: first we have an article by E. Matthews, our Canadian Governor. The postal money order stamps of the Netherlands are treated by our faithful Willem van Zandhoven. The Commentary on the 1979 NVPH Special Catalog concerns mostly the first issue of the Netherlands, and is from the hand of Dr. Fred L. Reed, another Governor. Prince William of Orange is treated by your editor, him being a history major in a far-away past. The fakes and forgeries, as usual, derive their main value from the excellent photos by our Vice-President, Larry Rehm. Vic Esbensen from Toronto, Canada, provided the article on the Netherlands New Guinea postal history. The big man of the War Cover Club, L. E. Kieffer, provided the material for the Curaçao 1803 article, which is pure philatelic history; you will notice that we don't even have an illustration. Finally, a last-minute receipt of Van Diemen's Overview of the previous auction season gave us the interesting - yes, even though most of us cannot afford even to think about these rarities as they now are - article about what might have been THE outstanding rarity of the Netherlands.

How does the future look? Well, we will have an article on the railroad stamps in the March issue, plus the two mentioned above and we are working on two postal stationery articles, one on the letter sheets of the Netherlands, the other one on the change of address cards of the Indies. We had some interesting letters too, but, they will have to wait for the next issue. We hope to give some results from the Harmer auction of November 17 in the January newsletter.

Happy Holidays! See you all next year!

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Netherlands 1872 15 Cent

by Edw. Matthews

Introduction

The steady encouragement received from Dekker and Gerrish have led me to study the remaining value (Note: The 50-cent value has not yet been published in Netherlands Philately.) of the six "cent" values of the 1872 issue which originally came from Berlin.

Once again I was able to count on the first-class cooperation of E. W. Gerrish, OBE, FRPSL, the well-known grand old man of the Netherlands philately in Great Britain, and the "Bonds Documentatie Centrum" in the Netherlands through the good offices of Jan Dekker, FRPSL. By the way, I would have liked to offer this study to Mr. Gerrish on the occasion of his 80th birthday which he would have celebrated this year, but as you found out (Netherlands Philately, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 3-4) this was not possible anymore.

Gerrish again lent me a quantity of stamps, pairs and strips and three studies of flaws from his own collection. From the BDC I received photos of an almost complete sheet of these stamps, a photo of a proofsheets and a listing of all printings.

You readily understand that without that kind of cooperation such plating studies are doomed to failure before they even get off the ground! I therefore wish to thank very much both Mr. Gerrish and Mr. Dekker for their assistance.

Period of Usage of the 15 Cent 1872

Although the well-known Speciale Catalogus of the Dutch Stamp Dealers' Association N.V.P.H., states that this issue appeared in 1872 and was replaced by the Young Queen issue in 1891, these dates are not entirely correct for the 15-cent value.

In those days when thrift was a virtue more practiced than today, the stock of the previous issue was always used up before the post offices were supplied with stocks of the new issue. Referring the reader to the authoritative article "Holland 1872 to 1891, a study in serration," by Mr. E. Gerrish in the London Philatelist, 1955, we find the following:

- a. According to Moens the 15-cent value was supplied to the post offices for issue in January 1873. As Moens made it his business to be in touch with things philatelic, this date is no doubt accurate.
- b. the 15-cent 1867 issue occurs in the Gerrish collection dated February 1873.

The FDC catalog of Avezaat and Okker gives as the earliest date for the 15-cent Young Queen 9 December 1891. The period of usage can therefore be correctly stated to be February 1873 to December 1891.

Berlin and Haarlem Plates?

Originally the Berlin "Staatsdruckerei" delivered for each of the six "cent" values five copper plates and a matrix plate, which could be used to make additional printing plates. We can assume, therefore, that sufficient material was on hand to make up a printing form consisting of four plates of 50 subjects, five horizontal rows of ten each, to print sheets of 200 stamps, plus one plate held in reserve. Prior to printing the plates were mounted on lead bases and hardened to resist wear.

Forty years ago collectors had already discovered that there existed two entirely different sets of plates for the 5-cent value. The later type, which differs considerably from the Berlin proofsheets, has been reconstructed. Stamps from the earliest printings, especially many of those with line perf. 13½ x 14 small holes, do not fit in this reconstruction, but do show characteristic flaws found in the Berlin proof sheets. These early printings were made with the Berlin plates; the plates of the later type we now call Haarlem plates. The oldest reconstruction with comb perf. 12½:12B small holes can be dated prior to 1875. We have to assume that Enschede used up the original Berlin plates and the fifth reserve plate, and wore out the Berlin matrix as well. It thus became necessary to prepare a new matrix, using the original engraving and the "5 CENT" slug, in order to make new matrices for new printing plates.

After having learned an expensive lesson with the 5-cent plates, it is highly likely that Enschede kept the reserve plate aside in order to use it as a matrix for the manufacture of new matrices. This seems to have occurred with all "cent" values other than the 5 cent, i.e., 10, 15, 20, 25 and 50 cents.

While studying the available material it became evident that all of the stamps could be assigned to a location in the Berlin matrix. We can conclude that for the printing of the 15-cent value, as was the case with the 10, 20, 25 and 50-cent values, Enschede used exclusively Berlin plates or "descendants" of the Berlin reserve plate. We call all these plates Berlin plates, as their basic characteristics are identical.

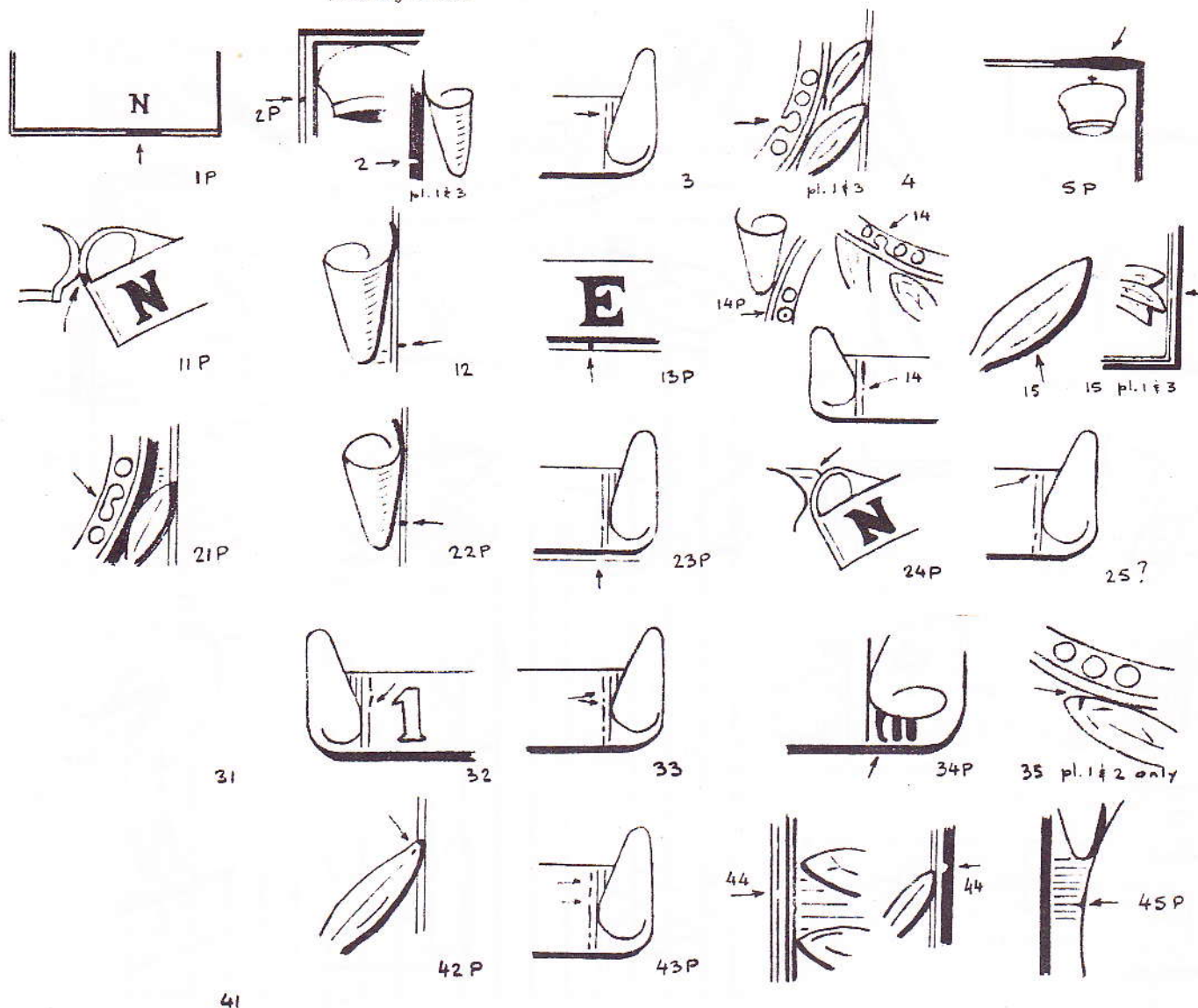
Plates

We are now faced with the second question: How many plates were used to print the 15 cent?

All stamps show certain characteristic flaws which can be classified according to origin, i.e., primary or secondary flaws. The primary flaws can have their origin in the matrix as well as the matrix. If more than one matrix has been used, each with its number of printing plates, we will have different matrix flaws, but the matrix flaws will be the same on each plate. Each printing plate has, due to wear and tear,



Primary Flaws



its own secondary flaws. These flaws are not repeated on any other plate. Through careful study of these flaws one can determine the number of plates used, and dated copies and covers will help to determine the length of period of use. Paper and perforation variations, of course, also help in dating a certain plate.

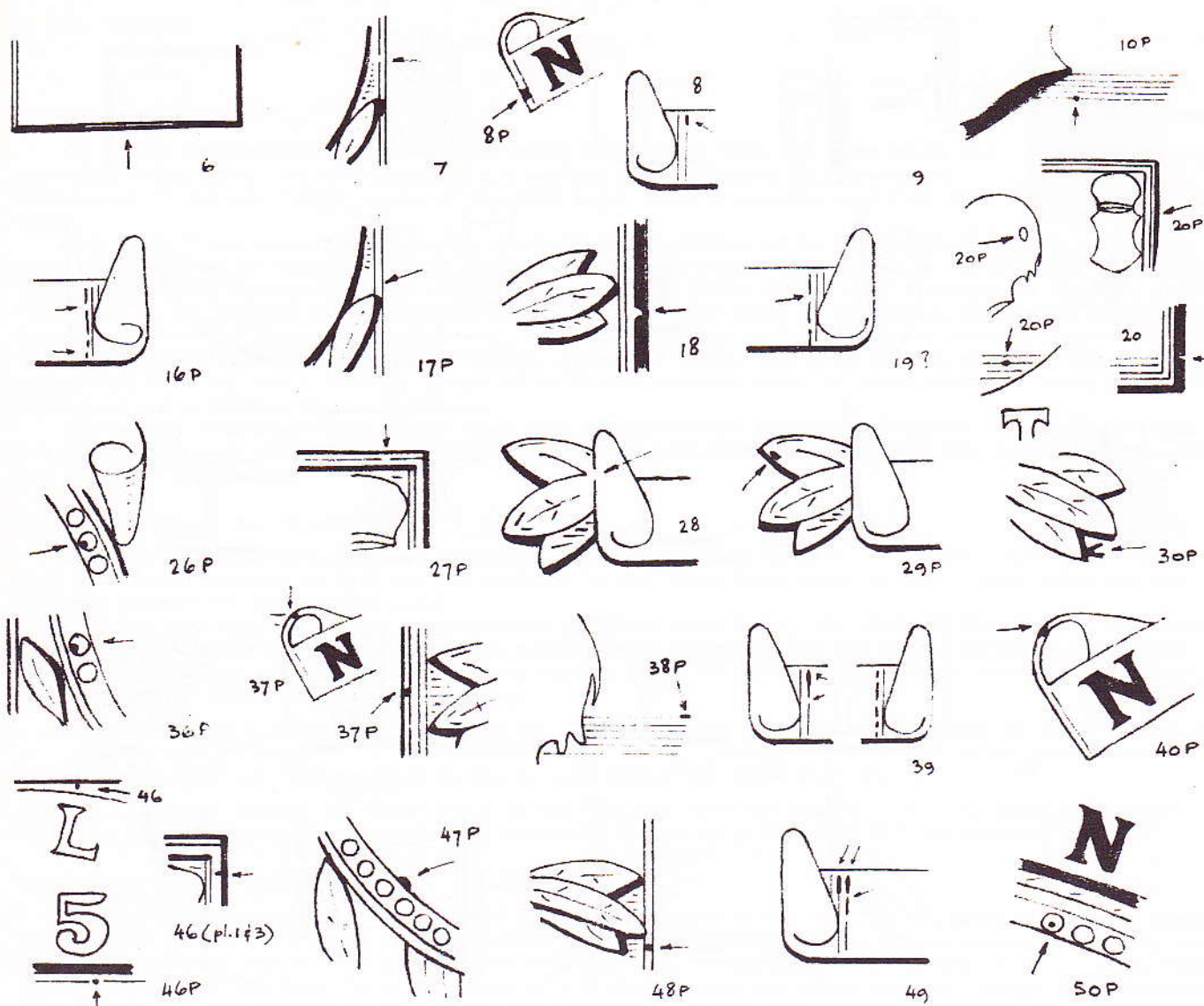
Primary flaws always have the same location in each plate, and it is precisely the goal of a plating study to determine this location. Then by studying the various secondary flaws which accompany a given primary flaw one is able to determine the number of plates used.

The Dutch Postal Museum in The Hague possesses a number of large blocks and multiples of this issue. It is possible to reconstruct an almost complete sheet of 200 subjects using these multiples. As usual in such a reconstruction there is some overlapping and there remain some open spaces as well. All the above-mentioned multiples are perforated 12½:12C and can be dated around 1886. The Museum also has a number of proofsheets from a single Berlin plate. I also had at my disposition the pairs and strips from the Gerrish collection among which were a number perforated 13¼x14 small holes.

Plate Reconstruction

The lessons which I learned from reconstructing the 10, 20, 25 and 50-cent plates stood me in very good stead with the reconstruction of the 15-cent plate. Right from the start I was able to work with the photographs from the Postal Museum of the multiples and proofs, as well as the Gerrish material. I duplicated the Museum blocks using primary and especially secondary flaws visible in the photographs to locate each stamp.

Next came checking of perforations and correlation of the vertical row to which the stamp belongs, by way of contact prints of large blocks of perforated stamps. Checking the perforation of a stamp against a contact print allows positive identification of the vertical row to which it belongs, and is in my opi-



nion the only reliable way to distinguish positively between the 12½:12B and 12½:12C perforations.

I thus proceeded to compare the stamps of the same plate positions of plates 1, 2, 3 and 4 to discover the primary flaw(s).

Drawings of the primary flaws that could be identified accompany this article (see the previous page and above), numbered according to plate position. Patrix flaws are identified by a P, for instance, 50P. Due to the lack of large quantities of this stamp, certain flaws are not 100 per cent positively identified and are indicated by a question mark.

Changes in the Use of the 15-Cent Value

What purpose did this stamp serve? Certain specific uses can be identified. From 1 October 1864 till 1 July 1875 - date of the introduction of the uniform UPU rate of 12½ cent for 15 grams - the single letter rate to, for instance, England, Denmark and Switzerland was 15 cents. Till 1882 the domestic letter rate for letters weighing 100-150 grams was 15 cents, and from 1882 onwards the domestic rate of 15 cents was for letters weighing 150-400 grams.

From 15 March 1882 till 1 April 1883 parcel post was gradually introduced in the Netherlands - rates: 15 cents - 1 kg, 20 cents - 3 kg and 25 cents - 5 kg.

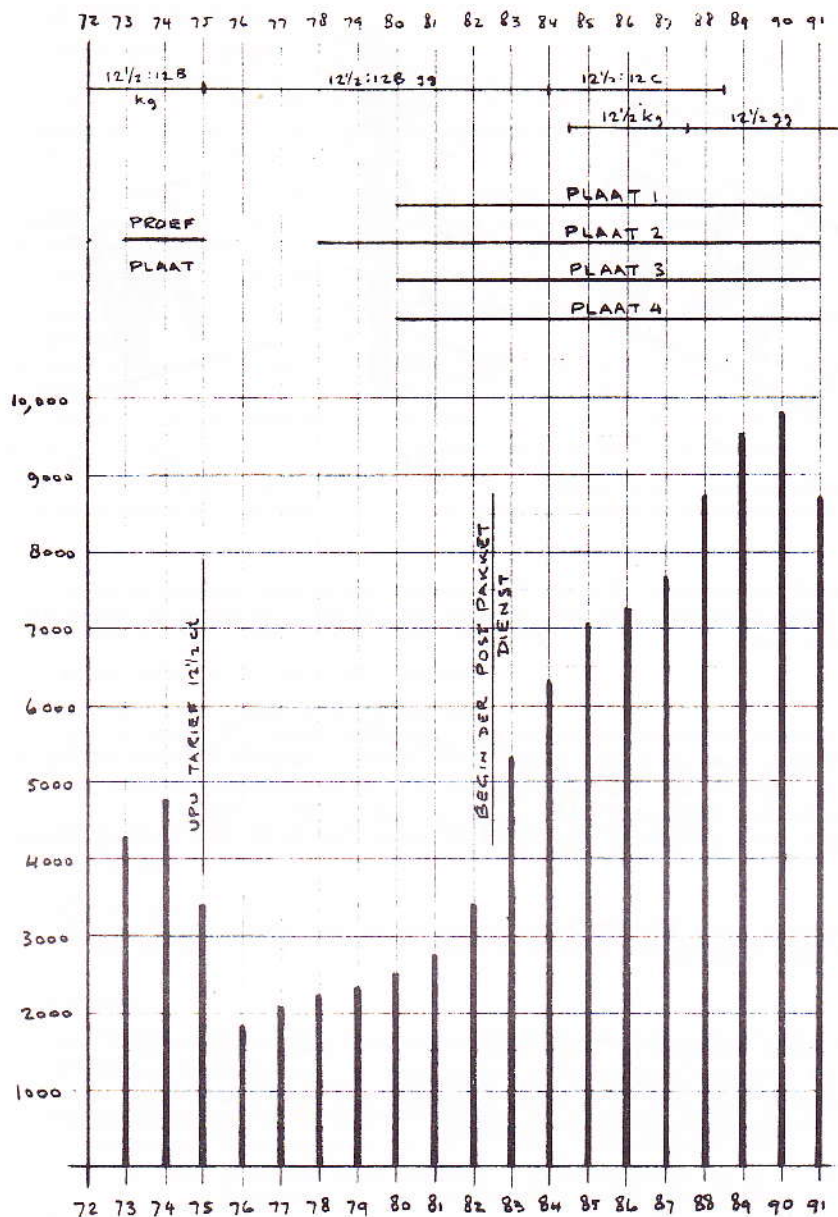
In 1888 the letter rate to the colonies was lowered from 25 cents to 15 cents for a single letter.

Special Delivery - 15 cents above the regular letter rate.

Money orders with a rate of 5 cents for every f 12.50 - thus 15 cents for money orders from f 37.51 to f 50.00.

I have included a graphical display showing what is known about the life of the plates together with the yearly consumption in sheets of 200 stamps covering the 1873-1891 period. The effects of the intro-

Table 1



Schedule of
perforations

Schedule of use
of Plates 1-4 and
Proofplate

Schedule of yearly
use of sheets of
200 stamps

Note: k.g. and g.g. used in this
table means "small holes" and
"large holes"
Proefplaat is Proofplate
Plaat is Plate
UPU tarief 12½ ct means UPU
tariff 12½ cents
Begin der postpakketdienst means
Beginning of parcel post service

duction of the cheaper UPU rate in 1875 and the parcel post in 1882-1883 are rather striking (see Table 1 above).

The Plates of the 15 Cent

The four plates of the "complete" sheet in the Postal Museum I have numbered plates 1, 2, 3 and 4, starting from the top. While studying the photographs of this sheet it became quickly evident that all four plates were made from the same Berlin matrix. The plate of the proofsheets, however, was not to be found on these photographs.

While studying the actual stamps it also became evident quite quickly that no stamp perforated 13½ x 14 or comb perf. 12½:12B small holes could be located anywhere on plates 1 to 4. Many stamps perforated comb 12½:12B large holes with clear secondary flaws could not be located on these photographs either.

Careful study of the multiples gave the following data:

Plate 1

Of this plate I found stamps perforated comb 12½:12B large holes up to and including stamps perforated comb 12½ large holes. Gerrish made a special study of position 43 with the secondary flaw "white spot on N and E of NEDERLAND." Lack of dated copies prevented me from establishing the exact starting point of this plate. Plate life was from about 1880 - 1891.

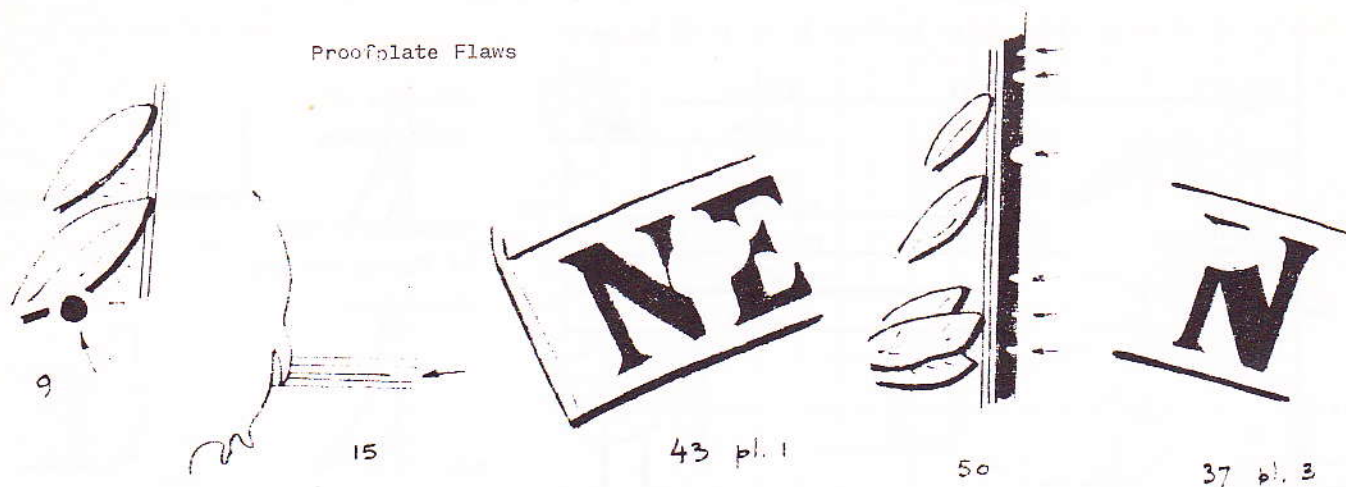


Plate 2

As with plate 1 the stamps found were perforated comb 12½:12B large holes up to and including comb 12½ large holes. The early stamps of this plate give the distinct impression of being older than those of plate 1. Estimated life was from about 1878 - 1891.

Plate 3

Again all stamps were perforated comb 12½:12B large holes up to and including comb 12½ large holes. Gerrish made a special study of position 37 with the secondary flaw "white spot on second N of NEDERLAND." All copies in his collection were perforated 12½:12B and 12½:12C large holes. Other secondary flaws were perforated all the way up to comb 12½ large holes. Estimated life was from about 1880 - 1891.

This plate is almost identical to plate 1 when comparing the stage of development of the primary flaws.

Plate 4

As with plates 1, 2 and 3, stamps perforated comb 12½:12B large holes up to and including comb 12½ large holes. Estimated life was from about 1880 - 1891.

Proofplate

Of this plate I discovered stamps with clear secondary flaws. All these stamps were perforated line 13¼x14 or comb 12½:12B small holes, but none with perforation of a later date. I thus studied especially positions 9 and 15. Gerrish himself has searched for years for copies showing the characteristic flaws of position 50, but without success. (Please see the sketches of positions 9, 15 and 50 of the proofplate above.)

This plate must therefore have been taken out of circulation in 1875 and this explains the rarity of stamps printed from this plate.

Gerrish lent me a large number of pairs and some strips. About half of them I could locate on the known plates 1 to 4, a single pair on the proofplate and the remainder, perforated line 13¼x14, comb 12½:12B small holes and comb 12½:12B large holes, could not be located on any plate.

In addition, it was quite evident that plates 1 to 4 originated from a different matrix than the proofplate or any of the other early plates.

The development of the matrix flaws of the second matrix have led me to consider - with some reservations - that plate 2 is the oldest plate, plate 4 is next, and plates 1 and 3 were made simultaneously as the last plates.

Number of Plates

The total printing of the 15-cent value is 20,010,800 stamps or 100,054 sheets of 200 stamps. The average printing run of the plates of the 5-cent 1872 issue was roughly 250,000 sheets. We can assume therefore that, barring accidents in Enschede's printing shop, four plates should have been amply sufficient to print some 100,000 sheets. You have to realize, however, by using the plates for printings every 3 to 4 months, the subsequent cleaning of the plates, the handling in the storage area, all add to wear and tear, even though the actual printing may be relatively small.

From the inventories of printing materials made in 1875 and Enschede's listing of 1872 we can conclude:

Received from Berlin in 1872		1 matrix	5 printing plates
Should be booked as	1 patrix	1 matrix	4 printing plates
April 1875 inventory	1 patrix	2 matrices	9 printing plates

April 1875 inventory

1 defective plate

November 1875 inventory

1 patrix

2 matrices

8 printing plates

The official record of disposal of printing material dated 13 December 1875 shows one plate destroyed. I think we may conclude that this destroyed plate is our proofplate as no stamps have been found printed from the proofplate after 1875.

There was a notable scarcity of dated copies of the 15 cent in the supply from Gerrish which made it impossible to determine with accuracy the life of plates 1 to 4. There was no evidence of wholesale plate replacement around 1887 as was the case with the 10-cent value.

We may therefore conclude - carefully - the following:

Minimum number of plates: plates 1 to 4 and four forerunners among which was the proofplate - total eight plates.

Maximum number of plates: as above, but with one additional plate in between the proofplate (replaced in 1875) and one of the plates from 1 to 4 which were put in use around 1880. Total nine plates.

The most plausible number is 8 plates, that is, the four original plates made from the original Berlin matrix and the four plates 1 to 4 made from the second matrix.

In addition, I have listed the actual plate and plate position of some of the well-known flaws which are mentioned in the NVPH catalog and other publications:

	<u>Plate</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Publication</u>
Spot in bottom right-hand corner	3	48	NVPH
Strengthened right frame line (primary)	all	20	NVPH
White spot on N and E of NEDERLAND	1	43	London Philatelist
White spot on last N of NEDERLAND	3	37	" "
White spot on second E of NEDERLAND	3	14	" "
White spot to the left of right-hand crown	4	16	" "
Dent in bottom right-hand corner bottom frame line	1	1	" "
White spot in King's hair	1	35	" "
White spot on King's ear	4	6	" "
Break in top frame above RL - perf. 12½:12B small holes not determined		7 (assumed)	" "

Literature

1. Jan Dekker, FRPSL, "De Haarlemse Postwaardenproductie in de 19e Eeuw," NMP, November 1964 and February 1965.
2. W. E. Gerrish, OBE, FRPSL, "Holland 1872-1891: A study in serration," London Philatelist, 1955.
3. Netherlands and Colonies Philatelists of Northern California, Netherlands 1872 Issue.
4. E. Matthews, "Nederland 10 ct 1872," NMP, July-August 1972.
 - "Nederland 20 ct 1872," NMP, September 1975.
 - "Nederland 25 en 50 ct 1872," NMP, May 1977.
5. Private correspondence with Messrs. Dekker and Gerrish.

Any information regarding this study can be sent to the author, E. Matthews, 157 Wellington, Bracebridge, Ontario POB 100, Canada.

BAD NEWS

Because of circumstances completely beyond our control, we are sorry to have to announce that the NVPH Special Catalogs as of November 16 had not been shipped from the Netherlands. The treasurer personally called Mr. van Dieten to try to expedite matters. We can, at this point, only hope that your catalogs will arrive soon enough not to get caught in the Christmas rush. Although we regret this tremendously, there is nothing we could have done to prevent this from happening. We can only hope that this does not happen again.

May we at the same time urge you all to send in your orders for Dutch publications to the Treasurer as soon as possible so that he may order the necessary books in the Netherlands. The ASNP cannot order books unless we know how many are required, so we have to have your orders in first. Please remember too that once the books are ordered, an additional order may take weeks to get filled, so act now.

Postbewijzen

by Willem van Zandhoven

WHAT are "Postbewijzen"? Well, to begin with "postbewijzen" is the Dutch plural of "postbewijs." That doesn't help much, you will say. Right! OK, all of you who have the NVPH Speciale Catalog will have seen a section called "Postbewijszegels" back in the book (1979 edition, page 197). As a matter of fact they are so far back in the book that Scott doesn't list them. So I thought it would be a good idea to tell you something about these "postbewijs" stamps, because that is what they are listed under.

By Royal Decree of October 7, 1884, a modified kind of money order was instituted for amounts not exceeding 10 guilders. The idea behind these new money orders was to make it simpler for the people to send small amounts of money, if they first supplied themselves with the necessary forms and some money order stamps. The cost of sending these money orders was 2½ cent (as you can see from the photos on this page) while the form itself cost ½ cent. The starting date for this service was December 1, 1884.

Previous to this, Enschede had submitted imperforated proofs on ungummed paper in sheets of 25 (5x5), of the lowest value contemplated, the 1 guilder. The design of these typographed stamps was by Enschede itself. We find 12 different color proofs: in red-brown, olive-yellow, dark olive-green, green, slate, pale brown (chosen color of the 1 gld), yellow (color of the 1½ gld), pale green (color of the 2 gld), blue (color of the 3 gld), violet (color of the 4 gld), red (color of the 5 gld), and grey (color of the 10 gld). These proofs are all listed in Van Dieten's Proof Catalog.



stamps. As you can see, our two examples both date from after the ministerial order.

In 1895 the forms were changed to include a series of numbers from 1 to 10 along the left border. All numbers higher than the amount sent had to be cut away; for instance, a money order for 2 guilders had the numbers 3 to 10 cut away.

In 1899 it was decided to do away with these "postbewijzen," because of the excessive numbers of duplicates which were requested by the public. So, starting January 1, 1900, all money orders were treated



To frustrate the implied simplicity of the new scheme, people could not buy the forms and the stamps separately at the post office. In other words, one could not buy a number of forms and a number of different stamps, and apply them as necessary to a form in case one wanted to send a small amount of money. The postal clerk was also required to put the stamps on the form, and this should be done with the least number of stamps. So, for amounts of 2.50, 3.50, 4.50, 5.50, 6.00, 6.50, 7.00, 8.00 and 9.00 guilders only two stamps were to be used. For 7.50, 8.50 and 9.50 guilders three stamps were allowed.

The issuing post office only placed a date cancel on the spot provided under the number (see the photos), while the receiving post office canceled the stamps itself after payment. This was changed by ministerial order of January 29, 1885, which provided that the issuing post office also had to cancel the

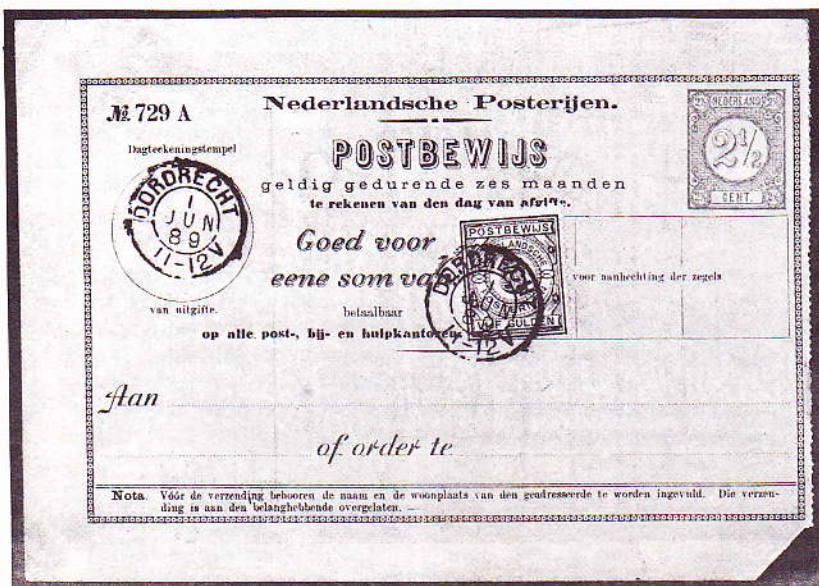
the same way, where the amount to be sent is filled in with ink.

So far the background of these fascinating stamps. If we turn to the catalog we see that all stamps originally appeared with the comb perforation 12½ small holes (see the photo above for all stamps except the 5 guilder). This corresponds with the date of issue of the regular King William III stamps in comb perforation 12½ small holes.

For a subsequent reprinting of only the 5 and 10 guilders (probably the most used stamps) in 1892-1893, the comb 12½ large holes was used (see the photo of the 5-gld stamp above).

The entire set also occurs with overprint SPECIMEN.

Since Scott doesn't list these money order stamps I thought it worthwhile to give you a little price history from NVPH catalogs. In the 1956 NVPH catalog the whole set with the two cheaper per-



forations for the 5 and 10 guilder was mint 350 guilders and used 30 guilders. The set on forms listed for 100 guilders. The two more expensive perforations listed at 200 guilders a piece mint, and 3.50 and 3.00, respectively, used. The SPECIMEN set finally was worth 300 guilders.

Ten years later, in the 1966 NVPH catalog, we find corresponding figures of 1000 and 70 guilders. The whole set on forms is then 375 guilders; the two more expensive perforations are 1250 guilders each and 7 and 10, respectively used. A SPECIMEN set is only 450 guilders.

The 1979 catalog shows something else again. The set mint is 18,000 guilders (yes, eighteen thousand) and used 750 guilders. On "parts" of forms, not even complete forms the set lists now at 5000 guilders. The 5 and 10 guilder in 12½ small holes is mint 7500 guilders each, and 125 and 175 guilders, respectively, used. The SPECIMEN set lists at 7500 guilders. Of the used set, the 2, 3 and 4 guilders are the most expensive, and of course the 5 and 10 guilder with 12½ small holes perforation.

It is fairly obvious that the used stamps were supplied by PTT auctions, and I don't believe any figures on totals auctioned have ever been published. The mint stamps could only have been "saved" by collectors or were "forgotten" in some drawer. The latter possibility is not too likely since these amounts constituted a great deal of money, especially to the people who were supposed to use them, the senders of small money orders. The 10-guilder stamp was probably comparable to a \$4 stamp in the U.S. at that time, and nobody has to tell you how much a mint \$4 Columbian Exposition stamp is worth now. On the other hand, there were collectors who applied the stamps to a form without sending the money order, as is proved by the photo at the bottom of the previous page. As you notice, the 2½ ct imprinted stamp was not canceled, hence the card was not sent as is also proven by the absence of an address.

If any member has an example of the form used after 1895 with the cut-out numbers on the left the Editor would be delighted to get in contact with a view to having a photo made for publication.

Commentary

The 1979 "Speciale Catalogus" of the stamps of the Netherlands and Overseas Territories features a complete rewriting of the chapters on the 19th century stamps. Some critical observations seem in order which I shall confine to the 1852 issue.

The descriptions of the various plates reflect the results of the finalizing research by G. C. van Bellen Blanken, Bert Buurman, and associates, and represent a good digest of the general characteristics. The references on paper texture appear oversimplified. I have found considerable variations within many plates between thick or thin and hard or soft or porous paper in all combinations.

My greatest grievance is with the cancellations on which the references are loaded with inaccuracies and omissions, and reflect a deplorable degree of sloppiness and lack of knowledge. Inconsistent with being pictured as normal cancellation No. 3 on page 14, the straight-line postmark Vellinga Type 58 is listed on page 203 as "zeldzaam" or rare in the same category as Types 27 and 75.

While under Type 1C the railroad postmarks are mentioned, no reference is made to the military camps which exist in Types 1B and 1C.

By consulting the excellent book by Dr. A. van der Willigen mentioned on page 19 it could have been established that most of the following postmarks are known to exist on stamps of the 1852 issue:

Vellinga — Korteweg

24	30A
41	46
50	53
63	52

Vellinga — Korteweg

??	66a
72	45
73	70
74	70a

Vellinga — Korteweg

240	127
243	132a
253	108

(Similar omissions can be established for the 1864 issue by comparison with the book by J. F. Cleij.)

I am wondering why the outdated Vellinga Classification was used instead of the more complete and better organized classification by Korteweg, and why the Editors have neglected to solicit the advice of the foremost authority on this subject, Dr. A. van der Willigen, and also rejected my suggestions for corrections of the draft which I was shown in May. These chapters could be and should be correct and up to date.

Dr. Fred L. Reed

Editorial note (to fill the page, but not necessarily unimportant, although not as important as the commentary above by Dr. Reed): It was in Netherlands Philately, volume 1, no. 3, that we pointed out that the 1909 Surinam local printing of the 5 cent with tete-beche pairs could not have been done from two plates of 50 subjects. Yet in the 1979 NVPH catalog the same description occurs for this stamp that had been used previous to our article, even though the Editors of the catalog were apprised of the facts mentioned in the article. We were also promised that proofs identical to the issued stamps would be added to the catalog. Well, the proof of the 1912 local Surinam stamp, identical to the issued 12½ cent stamp, was not included. Perhaps the "colonies" are stepchildren of the Catalog Committee?

Prince William of Orange

by Paul E. van Reyen

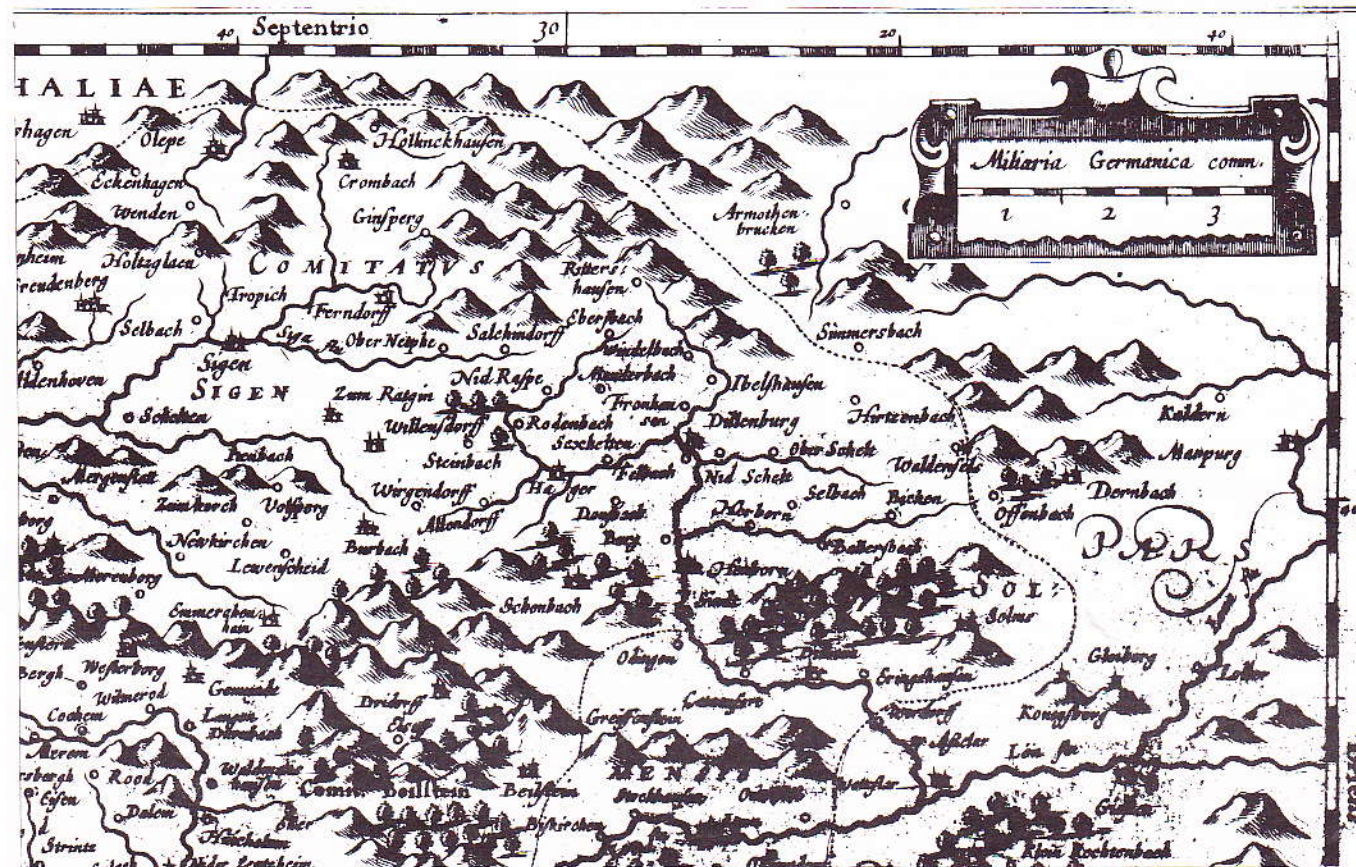
In 1933 the Netherlands issued four commemorative stamps (NVPH Nos. 252-255; Scott Nos. 196-199) to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the birth of William of Orange, commonly named "William the Silent" and in the Netherlands "Father of the Fatherland." In view of a stamp which is scheduled to appear in January 1979 to commemorate the signing of the Union of Utrecht in 1579, also 400 years ago, I thought that a little background to the 1933 set might come in handy, also because the description in Scott of the 1½ ct is wrong (it is not the arms of the House of Orange), and the description in the Speciale Catalogus is confusing to those who are not familiar with the painters of the sixteenth century (and who is?).

The photo to the right shows an enlargement of this 1½ ct stamp. Let's start with the description (and not in heraldic terms): top left we see a lion on a blocked background - this is the "lion" of Nassau. The lion and the blocks are gold while the background is blue. Bottom left we see a shield divided into three parts: the top and bottom are red, while the wide bar in the center is silver - these are the arms of Vianden. Top right we have a lion looking at us, in red on a gold background - and I believe this is the "lion" of Dietz. Finally, at bottom right we see two lions in gold on a red background which should be the "lions" of Katzenellebogen. These four "quarterings" depict the Nassau heritage of William of Orange. The Orange part of the coat-of-arms is found in the center shield, a so-called inescutcheon. Here we also find four quarterings, of which the top-left and bottom-right ones are Chalon, and the opposite ones the "horn" of Orange. Finally the central inescutcheon, itself divided in nine parts, together forms the arms of Geneva, Switzerland.

Interestingly enough, this coat-of-arms has been adopted by the Reformed Church in America, and those of you who live near a reformed church should check the sign which usually accompanies one of these churches.

For people who are not familiar with the history of William of Orange it must seem strange to hear all these names of places far from the Netherlands. Chalon is found somewhere in Burgundy, France, Orange is, of course, still a place near Avignon on the Rhone River, and we all know about Geneva, which lies close to the French border.

The Nassau heritage too probably sounds unfamiliar. What are Vianden, Dietz, and, especially, Katzenellebogen (which, translated, means the cat's elbows). Although the map below, which is one by Jodocus



Hondius who published atlases early in the seventeenth century, does not show Dietz and Katzenellebogen, it does show Dillenburg Castle (roughly in the center of the map) where William was born as the eldest son of William "the Rich," count of Nassau-Dillenburg. He was the first son by Juliana of Stolberg after whom Queen Juliana was named.

The lords, later counts of Nassau, show up in the eleventh century. Their first castle, Nassau, was found on the Lahn River. By the middle of the thirteenth century the family possessions had grown to such an extent, that in 1255 it was decided to divide the inheritance for the two oldest sons, Walram and Otto, whence the division into a Walram Line and an Ottonian Line, which persists to this time. The Grand Dukes of Luxemburg are descendants of this Walram Line, while the Orange-Nassaus of the Netherlands are part of the Ottonian Line. In general, Walram received the Nassau estates south of the Lahn River, while Otto got those north of this river, although both Dietz and Katzenellebogen are south of the Lahn. Dietz, however, was a late addition (1384) and Katzenellebogen was not acquired till 1479, although litigation lasted for another half century.

The son of the Otto who started the Ottonian Line married an heiress, the countess Adelheid of Vianden, a county in Luxemburg. So since Otto II the arms of Vianden were added to those of Nassau. A grandson of Otto II, Engelbrecht I, was the first Nassau to acquire large parts of the present Netherlands with his marriage to Johanna of Polanen in 1404. She was an heiress beyond heiresses, her chief estate being the barony of Breda in North-Brabant. Here too a family compact divided the possessions in the Netherlands and those in Germany between the two oldest sons. In case the Netherlands line would die out, the eldest Nassau-Dillenburg heir would succeed in the Netherlands and the second son in Nassau itself. The grandson of Johanna of Polanen died without children, so his nephew succeeded him in the Netherlands as Henry III. This Henry who was some kind of a right-hand man to the German emperor Charles V, married for the second time Claude de Chalon by whom he had one son Rene. Claude's brother was also Prince of Orange, and had pretensions on Geneva. When this Prince of Orange died during one of Charles V's wars in Italy, he left his principedom and other estates in France to his nephew Rene, under condition that Rene would call himself "of Chalon." History repeated itself in 1544 when Rene of Chalon, Prince of Orange, Count of Nassau, himself died during the siege of Florence in Italy, and left all his possessions to the oldest son of William the Rich, the 11-year old William of Nassau.

William was whisked off to the Imperial Court at Brussels to receive an education fit for the richest nobleman in Europe. It is well-known that when Charles V abdicated in favor of his son, Philip II, he entered the throneroom leaning on the shoulder of William of Orange.

But before this took place in 1555, the portrait to the right was most likely already painted by either Antonio Moro or William Key (ca. 1520-1568). It shows William probably at the time of his marriage to another heiress, Anne of Egmond, only child of the wealthy count of Buren and a relative of the ducal house of Guelders. By the way, Antonio Moro's real name was Antonie Mor van Dashorst (1512-ca.1576). The painting now hangs in the museum of Cassel in Germany.



The portrait which you see depicted on the 6 ct stamp was painted in 1581, three years before William died. The famous historian C. V. Wedgwood writes in her study on William the Silent: "We know what he looked like in this year, 1581, for the occasion was important enough for delegates (to the meeting of the Estates General) to want his picture to hang in their town halls, and by far the greater number of the portraits in the public galleries and municipal buildings of the Netherlands to-day derive from that which Adriaen Key of Antwerp painted at this time. The Prince of Orange had changed almost out of recognition in the thirty years since Antonio Moro drew him. ... Looking at Adriaen Key's portrait, it is easy to understand why the ordinary people called him 'Father' openly, and came to him with their troubles."

The catalog of the Mauritshuis in The Hague, where this painting hangs, says of the painter "Born about 1544, probably in Antwerp, where he died after 1589. Probably he was a pupil of his uncle Willem Key. He was influenced by Anthonie Mor." Hence we see that the confusing text in the Speciale Catalogus in reality refers to two different painters both named Key.

The portrait on the 5 ct stamp started life as an engraving. The photo to the right shows a detail of this engraving by Hendrick Goltzius (1558-1617), of which Conrad Busken Huet in the last century said: "Goltzius has the honor to have preserved the most outstanding portrait of William the Silent for posterity. Without diminishing the fame of van Mierevelt and his school - it is as if Goltzius, extraordinary in everything, among the artists of his time has been the only one who understood the prince of Orange, and through his eyes read his soul. ... Goltzius' prince is a general and a statesman, and a prince. He is decked like a prince, has the brow of a diplomat and grips the staff of a marshall. Goltzius was only twenty-three years old when he made this masterpiece."



C. V. Wedgwood ends her book with "He was buried with ceremonies too tragic to be splendid on August 3rd, 1584, in the great cool church, called the New Church, at Delft. ... Later the Estates ordered to be set up over his grave a baroque tomb of black and white marble, with his image in bronze, as he had been in the days when he first came back to the Netherlands, a lithe figure, seated, in armour with the famous white pug dog on guard at his feet. The long inscription, engraved at their orders, opens nobly: 'To the Glory of God and to the everlasting memory of William of Nassau Father of the Fatherland who valued the fortunes of the Netherlands above his own'."

Nothing can be added to that.

Fakes and Forgeries

THIS time we have a real mixed bag, some old forgeries of old stamps and some newer ones too.

Let's first start with the forgeries of Netherlands Indies Nos. 1 and 2 (see photos on the right). The Manual merely states: "Coarsely made forgeries with the background behind the portrait all the same; in the genuine the lower left is lighter than the lower right and upper portion. These are calco-graphs by E. Oniglia of Turin and not exceptionally dangerous." And on No. 2.: "Coarse counterfeits, similar to those of the 1864 issue, by Oniglia, perf. $11\frac{1}{2} : 11\frac{1}{2}$, the perforation holes not touching the design."



The color of the fakes is a close approximation of the real ones, the paper is yellowish, somewhat thinner in the No.2 forgery than in the No. 1 forgery in our collection. The perforation comes closer to $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$. You all know that we distinguish between comb perforation and line perforation by using ":" in the first case and "x" in the second.

This forgery is from around 1890. As you can see from the photographs, the cancellations are very indistinct. No. 1 is most likely a cancel of four concentric circles; No. 2 cannot be distinguished.



Our second fake is that of an old postage due stamp of Surinam. This is the 30 cent No. 6 which occurs in comb perforation $12\frac{1}{2} : 12\frac{1}{2}$. The perforation of this fake is also $12\frac{1}{2}$ on the top and bottom and 12 on the sides, but it is not a comb perforation with perfectly formed corners (quarter circles), so it must be line perforation. The color is pretty good, a very light lilac, but in this stamp the cancellation gives it away: As we have mentioned before, the squared-circle cancellation was not used in Surinam until January 1, 1902. Yet this cancel reads 29 4 1892. Also, the cancel most likely reads S(urina)ME, which is an impossible cancellation. All in all, I would say a very dangerous forgery. Please check your own collection.

We have two more fakes of the 1923 overprints (NVPH No. 117; Scott No. 120), which are again different from those we have shown before. In this case, however, the photos (see right) are superb, having been made by our vice-president. Both differ from each other as well as from the real overprint. Some characteristics of the real overprint are that the left "leg" of the "1" is noticeably thicker than the right "leg." It is also slightly thinner just below the top which it joins with an almost straight edge (the fake on the left is joined to the top with a triangular curve) and the bottoms of the "c" and "t" should be on one line. As you can see, both "t's" are lower.



Finally we have some recent faked stamps. These are Curaçao air mails Nos. 82-88 (Scott C44-C50). The Curaçao Handbook by Julsen and Benders states: "In 1952 forgeries of the 10, 15 and 25 gld. values have turned up The forgeries are, like the original stamps, recess printed. Origin: U.S.A." To the left



you can see a forged stamp at the top and the real one at the bottom. Below are photos of all the forged stamps known, which includes the entire set of high values. While the real stamps have comb perforation $12 : 12\frac{1}{2}$, the fakes have $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, with irregular corners. The paper is more or less transparent, totally unlike the clear white, rather heavy paper of the originals. The colors are more or less alike, but much vaguer. (Note from the editor: Since these fakes were in my possession the colors have, as far as I can see, deteriorated. They now look much less like the real stamps than they did six years ago.) Although these fakes should not be dangerous, someone who has never seen the originals might get fooled. Please check the stamps you want to buy carefully. It is worth it.



NNG — Further Information

by Vic Esbensen

This information concerns additions and corrections for the article "Unique Philatelic Aspects of New Guinea," which appeared in volume 3, number 3, pages 34-48, and volume 3, number 4, pages 54-56. Mr. Bunge's article ran through 1959.

Additional U.S. Army Post Offices located in New Guinea:

APO	Location	Dates of Use	
6	Wakde	6 - 8 - 44 / 12 - 8 - 44	
	Sansapor	12 - 8 - 44 / 11 - 3 - 44	(On page 40 the last date was reversed.)
24	Hollandia	30 - 5 - 44 / 23 - 10 - 44	(Dates were wrong.)
31	Toem	7 - 11 - 44 / 22 - 9 - 44	(Not mentioned.)
159	Sansapor	6 - 8 - 44 / 19 - 4 - 45	(Not mentioned.)
323	Toem*	24 - 9 - 44 / 8 - 2 - 45	(Not mentioned.)
	Hollandia	9 - 2 - 45 / 30 - 8 - 45	
565	U-1 Sarimi	15 - 7 - 44 / ?) These were branch offices while the main post
565	U-2 Hollandia	22 - 2 - 45 / ?) office 565 was at Hollandia.
565	U-3 ?	6 - 11 - 44 / ?)

The information given above is from "Locations and assignments, U.S. Army Post Offices, WWII and Later," published by the War Cover Club.

* Toem is a small village about 18 miles west of Sarimi.

List of Markings

Postmark 23 (page 48):

Add Hollandia, 1, B
Hollandia, 1 Noordwijk (see photo)
Hollandia, 5 S

Note: the "B" and "S" are the remainders of "Binnen" and "Stad"



Postmark 26 (page 48)

Add Sorong-Remoe (see photo)
Teminaboean (see photo)

Postmark 28 (page 48). This is NOT the mark of a subpost office, but of a delivery station (bestelhuis).

Postmark 30 (inside back cover). We should add 30A, which has at the bottom of the postmark "NED. NIEUW-GUINEA" and 30B, which shows in the bottom part "Ned. Nieuw-Guinea" (see photos).

Add to 30 Agats (black, blue)
Bosnik (black)
Genjem (blue)
Kameri (black)
Kimaan (blue, black)
Kokas (red)
Korido (black)
Mindiptana (blue)
Napan-Weinami (purple)
Sibil (black)
Waren (purple)
Wasior (black)



30A Nabire (black)
Oebroeb (purple)
Okaba (blue)
Pirimapoen (purple)
Waghete (black)
Wamena (purple)
Waris (purple)



Warsa (black)

30B Inanwatan (?)
Wasior (black)

Types 28, 30, 30A and 30B were used by the Indonesians as late as 1970, with the bottom part cut out (i.e., "Ned. Nieuw-Guinea" cut out). Due to lack of interest in the Indonesian period, the delivery station postmarks of the Indonesian period are far, far scarcer than those from the Dutch period. Yet, although much scarcer, the Indonesian postmarks fetch only 1/10 or 1/20 of the price of the Dutch ones!



Postmark 31 (inside back cover)

Add Wasior
(I believe Toep should read Toem.)

Postmark 43 (inside front cover)

Add Hollandia 3
Hollandia 7
Hollandia-Noordwijk 2
Manokwari 4
Veldpost 96 at Biak (2.8/2.11.62)
Veldpost 97 at Sorong (2.8/7.11.62)
Veldpost 98 at Hollandia (2.8/24.10. 1962)
Veldpost 99 at Biak (2.8/2.11.62)



2



Miscellaneous Markings

A Navy postmark was used at Biak, listing "Marinepostkantoor" in the bottom part of the cancel. This Navy post office was closed November 23, 1962. See photo.



Other ship cancels have also surfaced. We know of examples used on board the Groote Beer, the Zuiderkruis, the Waterman, and the Seven Seas.

These are based on postmark 43, except that the inner circle is not interrupted, except for the one for the Seven Seas where the inner circle is interrupted as in postmark 43.

A final DUTCH postmark is shown in the cover below. This "POSTE-RIJEN" postmark is (was?) used in the Netherlands to cancel "forgotten" stamps. In this case Hollandia 7 had forgotten to mark the four stamps!



Note: The "Veldpost 98" postmark above has an error in the date: it should have been 4.X. 62 (that is, October 4, 1962) instead of 4.XI.73.

The letter was received at Utrecht, the Netherlands, on 25.X.62.

Any additional information or corrections will be gladly received for forwarding to Mr. Bunge, the author of the original article. Merely send them to the editor of this journal. Thank you.

CURAÇAO 1803

by L. E. Kieffer

What follows is pure postal history, but important in that it covers a period about which very little was known. The author appreciates the help he received from Frank Julsen.

A Postal History of Curaçao by Frank W. Julsen and A. M. Benders states on page 27: "We have no information regarding the processing of mail from the Antilles during the years between 1796 and 1807, a stormy period for Holland and Curaçao. The period of turmoil began in 1793 when the new French Republic declared war on the Republic of the Netherlands and stadholder William V. Meanwhile the 'Council for the Colonies' (known from the 'WH' marking of 1792-95) advised the Curaçao officials to remain at their posts. There were troubles in Curaçao between the supporters of William V (the Orangists) and supporters of the Batave Republic, which was proclaimed in the Netherlands in 1795 under French influence, and the relations with Curaçao came almost to a standstill. A 'Provisional Director' got his instructions from the Batave Republic."

Meanwhile, fearing that the British would capture the island of Curaçao, the French occupied it in 1800. Shortly afterwards the British did in fact conquer the colony, but it was returned to the Batave Republic in 1802 (peace of Amiens) and a provisional government was installed. In 1804 a new attack by the British was beaten off by Louis Brion (see his portrait on Netherlands Antilles stamp No. 441 of 1971) but in 1807 the British conquered the island without much difficulty, to remain there until 1816."

Whatever mail that passed between Curaçao and 'the Motherland' during these years must have followed the haphazard custom of obliging ship captains. No postal markings were supplied from Europe, we are certain, until the British occupation period."

So far the Curaçao Handbook. To give some background to the British attacks on the Dutch islands in the Caribbean, Prince William V, who had escaped to England in January 1795, in February of the same year had issued the famous "letters of Kew" in which he ordered all the governors of the Dutch colonies overseas to capitulate to English squadron commanders who carried these letters; this to prevent an invasion by the French. The British government had promised that those colonies who would voluntarily put themselves under British protection would be returned to the Dutch. Of course, Essequibo, Demerara and Berbice, now parts of Guyana, which had obeyed the Prince before July 1795, were never returned but kept by the British! So the turmoil in Curaçao can be readily explained.

How tricky the situation was can be seen from the text of two letters sent from Curaçao to the English Commander in Chief in Jamaica. The text of the first letter follows:

Fort Amsterdam, Curaçao
29 September 1803

Sir,

I am extremely sorry to inform you that I have at last been obliged to give up His Majesty's Sloop Surinam, after repeated demands from the Dutch Government of this Island; it is impossible to describe the behaviour of my Officers and men, their conduct has been remarkably good indeed, in every respect.

The duplicity of the Dutch Government since the Surinam has been in Curaçao, is beyond any thing I can describe, ever since we have been prisoners of War, we have been fired upon in the night, in the house allotted for me and my Officers.

You will no doubt be surprised at receiving no Officers with the people sent down to you, the reason is, the Council required us to sign a paper that war, or no war, or in the event it should prove as war hereafter, between England and Holland, we should engage not to serve against the Batavian Republic, or their Allies untill we were regularly exchanged, agreeable to our rank and situations, which we positively refused, saying we would sooner stay in prison for seven years, than sign any such paper.

I intended to have sent a letter to you by the people, but from being denied all access to them for some days before they sailed, it was utterly impossible; however have no doubt, but the people may confute any information, the Council of this Island may have sent to you, untill such time as my Officers are brought forward, to prove the propriety of my Conduct.

I have the honour to be
Sir

Your ob. Servant
Robt. Tucker

The second letter was dated a little over a month later:

Fort Amsterdam, Curaçao
2 Novem.... 1803

Sir-

Understanding from various reports in this town, that some very false information has been sent down to you by the Government of this Island, and not having it at present in my power to give you every information I could wish; I beg leave to state to you that our treatment since we have been here is very far different from what you may imagine.

As to signing our parole neither myself Master or purser were asked, and if we had, could never think of signing, that War or no War or in case of a War taking place hereafter we would engage not to serve against the Batavian Republic or her Allies untill we were regularly exchanged agreeable to our rank, hoping soon to have it in my power to do away any malicious account you may have received.

I am
Sir
Your most obed. Serv.
Robt. Tucker

Both covers were addressed
On His Majesty's Service

Sir John Thomas Duckworth, K.B.
Rear Admiral of the (illegible)
and Commander in Chief
&c. &c. &c.
Jamaica

A notation on the side of the first letter sheet
address reads:

Captain Tucker
from Curacou, Sept 29th
1803

The second letter has the same except for the date.

No postal markings are shown on the first letter, and nothing is on the reverse side of the letters. This corresponds with the last paragraph of the Handbook quotation about the "haphazard custom of obliging ship captains."

I finish with the request that anybody who can throw some more light on these covers contact me: L.E. Kieffer, P.O. Box 173, Jamesburg, NJ 08831.

The History of a Rarity

by J.L. van Dieten

The sheet part of 28 copies of the 15 cent orange yellow on thick paper with thick gum which you will see illustrated on the next page, WAS the largest multiple of this stamp that was known to us. Although there have been rumors of a full sheet and a half sheet, nobody has seen a larger "block" of the 15 cent, apart from the sheet parts in the Post Museum. What did appear in the market as large "blocks" were the well-known dark orange proofs on thin paper without gum. Since a complete sheet of 100 stamps consisted of four blocks of 25 stamps, a sheet part of 28 stamps must show a so-called "bridge," and this we find indeed, between the bottom two rows of stamps. Because the sheets before sale were practically always cut into four parts, these bridge pairs occur very rarely. They are, apart from those in this sheet part, unknown in never-hinged mint condition. Even the proof sheets seem to have been cut into parts at an early stage.

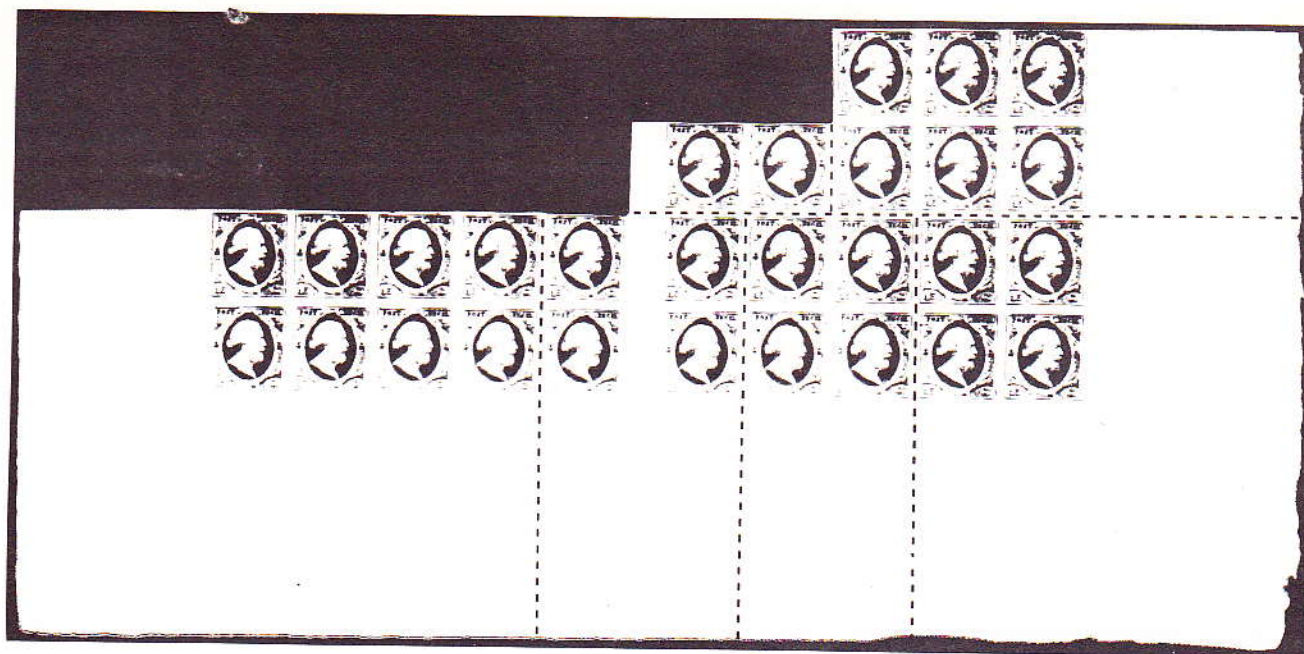
The history of this sheet part is interesting: For many years it was in a Dutch collection. Around 1953 it was offered in a New York auction with a minimum price of about 20,000 guilders. It appeared that there was no buyer. It came back to the Netherlands and was offered throughout Europe for that price to all persons who might have been interested. No deal!

Our firm, together with the collector H. Kohn, managed to buy the piece for 18,000 guilders.

The sheet part was then divided as is marked on the illustration, in such a way that the two bridge pairs were left intact in a block of four. This piece was supposed to make good the gamble in buying the sheet part. Mr. Kohn kept the left block of eight for his own collection, and the rest was offered in our auction of April 1955 Luckily we did not suffer because of the high price which the bridge pairs brought. Our estimate was 4500 guilders, and for about 4600 the piece went to the dealer Kottelat in Bern, Switzerland. Alack, he returned it because his client had discovered a trace of a fold within the bridge (something that is the case with all bridge pairs because the sheets were kept folded over). Luckily, the dealer Dr. Paul Wolff in London was willing to take the piece for the same price, so that we could breathe easy again. A short time thereafter Dr. Wolff sold the bridge pair block to Mr. J. Poulie who still has it in his collection.

We can discuss for a long time whether cutting up this sheet part was a philatelic murder or no. One can theoretically estimate the value of it now. In any case that will be a multiple of the price in 1955. Let us remember, though, that the owner at that time wanted to sell the piece and did not manage to get more than 18,000 guilders; that the sheet part did not have a very attractive appearance; that the guilder was worth a lot more at that time; and that now six collectors can enjoy the stamps.

Cutting up larger pieces has always happened in the philatelic world. My father used to tell me that he was cutting up pairs and strips of Netherlands 1852 up to the 1890's for the singles collectors. I still have his auction catalog No. 72 from 1903 in which it is noted that a block of four superb copies of No. 1 with full gum brought 15.50 guilders, a ditto block of four of the 10 cent 14.50 guilders, and a

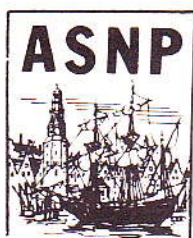


ditto block of four of the 15 cent 53 guilders!

Pairs and strips of the first issue did not bring more than singles. He also told me once that he had had a part sheet of Oldenburg No. 1, which he had cut into blocks of four and sold. Those blocks of four also never show up again. Perhaps they were cut down too in the course of time.

If one knew everything beforehand ...

The article above was included in the "30th Overview from the Rounooiveld: The 1977-1978 Auction Season," published by Van Dieten Postzegelverlningen BV, The Hague. We will save Mr. van Dieten's "crystal ball" viewing for another occasion, as well as his commentary on CAPEX '78 in Toronto. Especially the latter will make interesting reading. In view of our article on the "Postbewijszegels" earlier in this issue, we want to mention that in November 1977 a complete set of these parcel post stamps (the 5 and 10 gld in the cheaper perforation) in margin copies mint never hinged brought 15,000 guilders (plus 15%). Other prices realized we will give in a later publication.



ASNP NEWS

The illustrations of the Child Welfare stamps of the Netherlands we promised to give you here you'll have to wait for. There just wasn't any space left. We are happy to notice that many members who were dropped because of nonpayment of dues are back with us.

We have a number of new members:

Phil R. Zwart, 409, van Baerlestraat 140, 1071 BE Amsterdam, Netherlands
 Martin W. O'Grady, 410, 1368 Jacqueline Place, San Lorenzo, CA 94580
 Charles Croes, 411, 60 N.E. 89th Street, Miami, FL 33138
 Willem E. Keur, 412, RFD 1 Box 3, Lakeville, CT 06039
 Norman H. Speirn, 413, 465 Bertha Avenue, Windsor, Ontario, Canada N8P 1B6
 Dr. F.H.A. Rummens, 414, 94 Munro Place, Regina, Sask., Canada S4S 4P7
 Mike Makulowich, 415, Williamsburg Stamp Co., P.O. Drawer Q, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Reinstated members:

Miss Helen Boer, 323, 5023 Washington Avenue, Chino, CA 91710
 Benjamin Bump, 265, 43 North Road, Hampden, MA 01036
 Dr. Robert J. Hekking, MD, 345, 2700 Huey Avenue, Drexel Hill, PA 19026
 George H. Lange, 322, 567 Ballantyne Street, El Cajon, CA 92020
 Robert W. Lowe, 222, P.O. Box 189, Hemphill, TX 75948
 Paul D. Mosher, 192, 6 Perkins Square, Apt. 14, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
 Adrian Peetoom, 293, 5940 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C., Canada V5E 3N8
 John H. Weidner, 77, 923 Country Road, Monterey Park, CA 91754

Resignation: L.J.L. Gooij, 30, 1006 Shrader, San Francisco, CA 94117